

Legislative Research  
SAFLL-2

January 1962

Congressional Information

Name: Cannon, Howard W. - Democrat - Senator from Nevada

Home: Las Vegas

Born: St. George, Utah - January 26, 1912

Marital Status: Dorothy Pace - two children

Education: Arizona State Teachers (B.E.) 1933; University of Arizona (LLB) 1937.

Military: pilot in WW II. Shot down over Holland, evaded capture for 42 days before reaching allied lines. Now an active Reserve AF Brigadier General with command pilot rating. Has logged over 2600 hours. Has flown F-100. Awarded: Air Medal (2 OLC), Purple Heart, Croix de Guerre

Profession: Lawyer

Experience: Law practice in Utah (1938). Reference attorney Utah State Senate (1939). County Attorney of Washington County, Utah (1940). Following military service resumed law practice with firm of Servis, Hawkins and Cannon (now Hawkins, Cannon, and Kelly). Was secretary of Washington County Democratic Central Committee. In 1952 elected chairman of Clark County (Nevada) Democratic Central Committee. Las Vegas city attorney (1949) and reelected three times. Nevada chairman of National Institute of Municipal Law Officers for 7 years. President, Clark County Chamber of Commerce (1955)

Elected to US Senate (November 1958) for term ending January 1965.

Member: Clark County, Utah, Arizona and American Bar Assn.; Board of Bar Examiners (1950-55); Special Committee on Divorce-Marriage Laws and Family Courts (1957-58); Southern Nevada Industrial Foundation; Permanent Legal Committee of International Astronautical Federation and Space Law; American Rocket Society; ROA; AFA; Lions; Elks; American Legion; DAV; VFW; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Bases: Nellis, Stead

Committees: Armed Services -- *Sub on Stockpile*  
Aeronautical and Space Sciences  
Rules and Administration (Subcommittees: Standing Rules; Privileges and Elections - Chairman)

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Board of Visitors - Air Force Academy

Remarks: Is a liberal Democrat, who in a surprise defeat, replaced a conservative Republican, Senator George Malone. In primary campaign stressed his record as a jet pilot, war record, and 10 years as city attorney of Las Vegas. Promised work against inflation, full employment, increased social security, Federal aid to education without Federal controls, sound foreign and defense policies, aid for mining in Nevada. Had labor support.

Has an active interest in horse breeding and aviation and better than average interest in tennis, golf, baseball, and basketball. Took his active tour of duty in November 1959 -- visited Hawaii, Philippines, Formosa, Japan and Hong Kong to inspect military bases in Far East.

86th Congress: comments --

Air Defense --

Debate FY60 Military Public Works appropriations -- supported bill but expressed disappointment in revised plan for continental air defense. Said deficiencies pointed out in committee's report are not to be taken lightly. Added that while we are preparing for a period during which we hope to close missile gap, he does not believe we have gone far enough in filling this void with a sufficiently powerful system of manned interceptors to cover the interim period between now and time when missiles threat becomes the all-consuming reality. (Congressional Record June 30, 1959 Page 11122)

Civil Airlift --

Debate FY60 DOD budget - supported Sen. Thurmond's amendment to decrease funds for civil airlift. Expressed concern that if the \$100 million was left in the bill, that figure being \$20 million more than was authorized last year, it will only be an invitation to private enterprise to come forward and cut a part of the melon and put MATS out of business. (Cong. Record July 14, 1959 P 12115)

MATS -- believes we are allowing MATS to deteriorate at a time when we need to be upholding MATS so it can carry out its principal missions. Said steps must be taken to modernize MATS so it can carry out its mission of supporting SAC. (Cong. Record August 19, 1959 Page 15005)

Missiles -- during Joint hearings on Missile and Space Activities (Jan. 1959) - queried Sec. McElroy on ground and air alert of SAC. Developed questions with Gen. White about obsolescent aircraft; how fast were propeller-driven aircraft being phased out; any gap between B-47's and phasing in of B-58's. Asked General Power how long an air alert would be needed. Reply: Until planes could get reliable warning. Asked Gen. Schriever when missile picture would justify relief from air alert (answer deleted) and with Gen. White, brought out that the other element, besides enough reliable warning would be hardening and dispersal of missiles and planes.

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B-70 -- During Senate Subcommittee hearings on NASA authorization expressed concern over B-70 cutback. Gen. Schriever told Subcommittee he too shared this concern. The Senator said manned bomber will continue to be an important part of our deterrent force. (SAFLL M/R March 30, 1960)

AF -- inserted Apr 4, 1960 Aviation Week editorial which he termed one of the best he had seen on defense budget. Article found following deficiencies: (1) lack of modern military airlift and no action to develop any; (2) lack of top priority program to develop mach 3-plus bomber to replace subsonic B-52's and mach 2 B-58's; (3) lack of urgency for Atlas' and Titans during missile gap years; (4) lack of sufficient funds for development of airborne alert; (5) lack of priority for military space systems for warning and reconnaissance; (6) lack of technical effort devoted to monitoring and detecting nuclear explosions required for any program of nuclear arms control. (Cong. Record April 7, 1960 Page A3071)

Manned Aircraft -- floor debate on nuclear tests and manned aircraft initiated by Sen. Goldwater - Cannon referred to Khrushchev's action at Paris summit - questioned adequacy and confidence we can place in Defense Establishment. Called attention to debate by Sens. Engle, Symington and others on attributes and superiority of the B-70. Is concerned over cuts in B-70 in FY61 budget. Urged Senate to reexamine "scuttling of B-70 program. . ." Believes security would be doubtful without B-70 in arsenal. Called for speed up and crash program. (Cong. Record May 18, 1960 Page 9797)

Army -- supported increases for Army modernization. (Cong. Record June 16, 1960 Page 11967)

Supplemental Carriers -- believes these air carriers very important part and cog in our air transportation industry. (Cong. Record June 27, 1960)

87th Congress -- comments --

Brig.Gen. -- received tribute from several Members when Senate unanimously approved his nomination to brigadier general in USAFR. (Cong. Record March 8, 1961 Page 3236)

B-70 -- referred to President Kennedy's inaugural speech and programs for American strength. Cannon said present administration must overcome some major deficiencies inherited from the past -- one being the B-70 weapons system. Urged program be restored to full stature it deserves. (Cong. Record April 14, 1961 Page 5575)

During April 1961 hearings on Military Procurement Authorization FY62 he discussed with Sec. McNamara costs of. Sec. maintained it would be terribly expensive for delivery of conventional weapons and was not practicable for use in Dynasocar. (Page 84-85) When AF witnesses testified he said the phasing out of the bomber capability disturbs him greatly.

Gen. LeMay -- on nomination hearing: asked if in foreseeable future -- any possibility manned aircraft being dispensed with? (Page 8)

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Military Construction -- HR 5000 hearings - He asked about -- DEW line and SAGE systems (whether or not we are beginning to duplicate systems); expressed concern about moving bombers out one place and going to an expense of \$40 million to put one squadron on each of 3 bases needing certain facilities (P 406). Again referred to number of hours flown annually by rated personnel at Maxwell -- feels savings could be made if these were given by the Secretary authority not to fly during schooling period.

Advertising Costs -- essential that loopholes must be closed which cause waste and extravagance within our defense procurement program and thereby diminish our military strength by diverting funds for advertising away from purchase of needed hardware. (Cong.Record August 4, 1961 Page 13638)

Skybolt -- record should clearly show that Skybolt is only in the development stage now. (Cong.Record August 3, 1961 Page 13494)

Nuclear Testing -- cosponsor of S.Res. 200, immediate resumption of nuclear testing. (Cong.Record August 31, 1961 Page 16538)

Senator Howard W. Cannon

In the joint Preparedness and Space hearings on missiles his discussions and summary indicated he understood the testimony on this technical subject. He asked a number of pertinent and penetrating questions.

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January 22, 1962

Congressional Information

Name: Byrd, Robert C. - Democrat - Senator from West Virginia

Home: Sophia, West Virginia

Born: North Wilkesberry, N.C., on January 15, 1918

Marital Status: Married - two daughters

Education: Beckley College; Concord College; Morris Harvey College; Marshall College

Profession: Businessman

Experience: State House and Senate. U.S. House of Representatives 83d through 85th Congresses. U.S. Senate - elected for six year term 1959

Committees: Appropriations (Subcommittees: District of Columbia - Chairman; General Government Matters; Department of Interior; Department of Labor; Department of the Treasury; *Sub on mil. Constr.*); *Sub on Refineries*; Armed Services

Board of Visitors - Air Force Academy

87th Congress: Some bills he introduced were -- S. 349, GI bill for peacetime veterans who serve from Jan 31, 1955 to July 1, 1963; S. 404, create a Youth Conservation Corps; S. Con. Res. 4, Joint Committee on National Fuels study; S. 729, amend Title 10 USC, to provide for the allocation of defense contracts to areas of substantial labor surplus; S. 407, establish a US Foreign Service Academy; S. Res. 134 (cosponsor) - to create a Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Remarks: Highly interested in distressed areas legislation, social security legislation.

Foreign Policy -- speech on Berlin situation - said if Soviets continue pressure on Berlin we can put pressure on them - a naval blockade of the Soviet Union in the Dardanelles and Baltic Sea area. Said: "It seems to me that one reason for our great alarm over the Berlin ultimatum is that if it would become necessary to use force to defend our rights in Berlin, we do not have broad enough strength to choose the kind of military force we wish to use. Instead we have so whittled down our conventional forces, and become so dependent on nuclear weapons, that if military force were brought into play we would almost certainly be compelled to use nuclear weapons if we do not wish to be defeated." Continuing,  
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byrd - W.Va. -

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"If we wish to win in our battle against communism, if we only wish to hold our own, we cannot continue to allow our military strength to be budgeted away. We have to be so strong, so powerful, so capable of delivering terribly destructive blows, that the Soviets cannot force us to yield to political blackmail, and indeed will not even try." (Cong. Record May 1, 1959)

Mutual Security --- " . . . I feel that the mutual security cloak has been used to cover a multitude of things that are not necessarily in the best interests of our own security or the security of our friends." (Cong. Record February 1, 1960)

Along with Sen. Randolp (W.Va.) wrote letter to Sen. Stennis of the Senate Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee demanding an investigation as to why the West Virginia Ordnance Co did not get a contract for 100,000 M-14 rifles. This was answered by the White House which said the administration was interested in providing work for depressed areas but had found that the work could not be produced as speedily as required by the situation in West Virginia. (Baltimore Sun October 12, 1961)

Did not attend AF testimony during hearings on authorization for appropriations for missiles, aircraft and naval vessels during April 1961.

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